

Bauer designing course for casino property

TOWER, Minn. — Fortune Bay Resort Casino, owned and operated by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, has hired Jeffrey D. Brauer of Golf Scapes as the designer for its proposed 18-hole championship golf course here.

"We are very excited to hire someone of Brauer's caliber to design the course at Fortune Bay," said Gary Gotchnik, chairman of the board for Bois Forte Enterprises. "Having Jeffrey as part of our development team confirms our commitment to making this a first-class golf course."

Brauer has already earned acclaim and name recognition in Minnesota, turning hundreds of acres of former iron ore mines and sand and gravel quarries



into the state's highest-ranked public course at Giants Ridge in nearby Biwabik.

When it opened in 1997, Giants Ridge finished eighth in *Golf Digest's* ranking of the best new "upscale" public courses, and it is widely considered Minnesota's most successful resort course.

This success led Minnesota's Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to hire the Arlington, Texas-based Brauer to design a second course near Giants Ridge.

LAKE FRONTAGE

The proposed golf course would be located on land adjacent to the casino, and Brauer predicts that the high drama of his course will correlate with the drama taking place in the casino.

"I am emphasizing gambling holes, while giving the golfer a good chance to, in this case, beat the designer," Brauer said. "This course will have some unique holes, and will definitely be very fun to play."

"Fortunately, I have lots to work with — some of the prettiest land in Minnesota, fronting on the prettiest lake in Minnesota, and with dramatic granite rock outcroppings, which I hope to feature in the design," Brauer added. "Also, at least one hole will border on Lake Vermilion and the lake will be visible from several holes."

BREAKING GROUND SOON

Preliminary planning and conceptual design work is scheduled to be completed this winter. Course construction could begin as early as next summer. Final approval is still needed by the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council. Public comment forms mailed to members of the Band show a three-to-one favorable

response for the project.

Fortune Bay planning director Andy Datko said the Bois Forte Band intends to accomplish two things with the golf course: add diversity to the resort, making it a family vacation getaway; and expand its

amenities for business meetings.

Datko said the tribe hopes to open the course in 2003. The casino has been in operation since 1986. The resort opened in 1996, featuring a hotel and conference center, marina, RV park and nature trails. A 12,000-square-foot cultural heritage center, focusing on the Bois Forte tribe, is currently under construction. It will open next June.

NGF offers satisfaction surveys

JUPITER, Fla. — The National Golf Foundation has introduced a "national customer satisfaction study" to provide consumer information to golf course facility owners and managers.

Designed with the input of several facility managers, the survey measures golfer satisfaction with various aspects of

golf course operations such as condition of greens, pace of play and tee time reservations. The study provides marketing and advertising information as well as competitive analysis.

"Member and non-member facilities of the NGF can all benefit from better understanding what their customers want," said

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